



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,629	11/25/2003	Richard L. Rudolph	AHP-92021-8-D6	7720
25291	7590	03/19/2008		
WYETH PATENT LAW GROUP 5 GIRALDA FARMS MADISON, NJ 07940			EXAMINER RAMACHANDRAN, UMAMAHESWARI	
			ART UNIT 1617	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 03/19/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/721,629	<b>Applicant(s)</b> RUDOLPH ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> UMAMAHESWARI RAMACHANDRAN	<b>Art Unit</b> 1617	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' election of species, Venlafaxine in the reply filed on 12/11/2007 is acknowledged. Claims 1-7, 9-14 read on the elected species and claim 8 is withdrawn from consideration. Applicants' have elected the species with traverse stating that the genus contains a reasonable number of species. In response, R1 has two different substituents, R4 has four different substituents namely H, alkyl, formyl, alkanol, R5 and R7 has fifteen different substituents and R7 has two different substituents and hence combination with all different substitutions at different positions would lead to a large number of compounds. Hence the claims read on a multitude of compounds. This will cause an undue burden on the examiner since the literature search would require a review of a vast number of patent and non patent literature including medical journals. Thus the restriction requirement elected is made final. Claims 1-7, 9-14 are pending and are being examined on the merits herein.

### ***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 11 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 30 of U.S. Patent No. 7,001,920.

The instant application teaches a method of treating bulimia comprising administering a compound (from a genus ) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof including desmethyl venlafaxine and venlafaxine.

The patent application teaches a method of treating a patient suffering from a condition such as bulimia nervosa administering an effective amount of O-desmethylvenlafaxine formate. The patent also teaches that O-desmethylvenlafaxine is a major metabolite of venlafaxine (col. 1, lines 1-2).

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the patent and the present application teach a method of treatment of bulimia nervosa administering a compound of formula as exemplified in claim 1 of the instant application.

Hence the claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 11 of the present application are an obvious variation of the patent.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 11 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 41 of U.S. Patent No. 6,673,838.

The instant application teaches a method of treating bulimia comprising administering a compound (from a genus ) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof including desmethyl venlafaxine and venlafaxine.

The patent application teaches a method of treating a patient suffering from a condition such as bulimia nervosa administering an effective amount of O-desmethylvenlafaxine formate. The patent also teaches that O-desmethylvenlafaxine is a major metabolite of venlafaxine (col. 1, lines 17-18).

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the patent and the present application teach a method of treatment of bulimia nervosa administering a compound of formula as exemplified in claim 1 of the instant application.

Hence the claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 11 of the present application are an obvious variation of the patent.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-7,9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The claims are directed to a method of treating bulimia nervosa in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in the instant invention. The specification teaches a method of the treatment of obesity administering

venlafaxine. The specification does not teach a method of treatment of bulimia administering any of the compounds claimed including the elected species venlafaxine.

The instant specification fails to provide information that would allow the skilled artisan to practice the instant invention without undue experimentation. Attention is directed to *In re Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (CAFC 1988) at 1404 where the court set forth the eight factors to consider when assessing if a disclosure would have required undue experimentation. Citing *Ex parte Forman*, 230 USPQ 546 (BdApl 1986) at 547 the court recited eight factors:

(1) the nature of the invention; (2) the state of the prior art; (3) the relative skill of those in the art; (4) the predictability or unpredictability of the art; (5) the breadth of the claims; (6) the amount of direction or guidance presented; (7) the presence or absence of working examples; and (8) the quantity of experimentation necessary.

**(1) The nature of the Invention:**

All of the rejected claims are drawn to a method of treating bulimia nervosa in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in the instant invention.

**(2) Breadth of the claims:**

The complex nature of the subject matter of this invention is greatly exacerbated by the breadth of the claims. The claims encompass a therapeutic method of treating bulimia nervosa comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula as shown in claims 1 or 4.

**(3) Guidance of the Specification:**

The guidance given by the specification for a therapeutic method of treating bulimia nervosa comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula as shown in claims 1 or 4 is none. All of the guidance provided by the specification is directed towards the treatment of obesity comprising administering venlafaxine.

**(4) Working Examples:**

The specification provides examples for the treatment of obesity comprising administering venlafaxine.

**(5) The relative skill of those in the art:**

The relative skill of those in the medical treatment art is high, requiring advanced education and training.

**(6) The predictability of art:**

Despite the advanced training in the medical treatment arts, the arts are highly unpredictable. The state of the art is such that it is not possible to predict the activity of a compound, whether in vitro or in vivo, based on the structure alone. In order to predict the in vivo activity of a compound based on the in vitro assay, the assay itself must be definitively well correlated to the pathophysiology of a target disease and verified as being predictive of the in vivo activity of a compound. For example, if a receptor is known to be overactivated in the pathophysiology of a disease, the ordinary practitioner would predict that a compound that inhibits the activation of the receptor may be useful for the treatment of said disease. However, even for in vitro models that involve receptors known to be involved in the pathophysiology of a disease, translating the in

vitro efficacy of the compound to in vivo efficacy for the treatment of a disease is notoriously unpredictable unless the correlation has been conclusively verified. Further, the in vivo efficacy of a compound is not only determined by the affinity or activity of the compound on its target receptor in a validated in vitro assay, but by a range of other factors including the bioavailability of the compound, its pharmacokinetic profile, and the specificity of the compound for the desired target versus other potential targets.

Applicants' teach in the specification that obesity and bulimia nervosa are different disorders (p 2, lines 10-18). Hence it is not predictable from the experiments of treatment of obesity that a disorder such as bulimia nervosa is treated.

**(7) The Quantity of Experimentation Necessary:**

In order to practice the above claimed invention, one of skill in the art would have to first envision formulation, dosage, duration, route and, in the case of human treatment, an appropriate animal model system for the claimed compound(s). One would then need to test the compound in the model system to determine whether or not the compound is useful in the treatment of bulimia nervosa. If unsuccessful, which is likely given the lack of significant guidance from the specification or prior art regarding the therapeutic method of treating bulimia nervosa comprising administering the claimed compounds, one of ordinary skill in the art would have to envision a modification in the formulation, dosage, duration, route of administration etc. and appropriate animal model system, or envision an entirely new combination of the above and test the system again. In order to practice the applicant's invention, it would be necessary for one to conduct the preceding experimentation for each compound listed in claims 1 and 4 for the

treatment of bulimia nervosa. Therefore, it would require undue, unpredictable experimentation to practice the claimed invention of therapeutic method of administering NDM LMP to a patient to provide antagonist effects to various receptors. Genetech, 108 F.3d at 1366 states that “a patent is not a hunting license. It is not a reward for search, but compensation for its successful conclusion” and “patent protection is granted in return for an enabling disclosure of an invention, not for vague intimations of general ideas that may or may not be workable”.

Therefore, a method of treatment of bulimia nervosa in a mammal comprising administering an effect amount of a compound of formula listed in claims 1 and 4 of the instant application is not considered to be enabled by the instant specification.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pope et al. (J Clin Psychiatry, July 1985, 339-345) in view of Schweizer et al. (J of Clin. Psychopharmacology, 1991, 233-36).

Pope et al. teach administration of antidepressants in the treatment of bulimia. The reference teach the oral administration of antidepressants such as imipramine, amitriptyline, tricyclics, or phenelzine (90 mg/day) in bulimic patients and further teach that phenelzine proved significantly superior to placebo for improving the frequency of binge eating (p 340, para 4, lines 3-14, p 341 para 4, lines 4-5). To summarize, Pope et al. teach therapeutic benefits of all kinds of antidepressants in bulimic patients.

The reference does not teach venlafaxine (elected species) or any of the compounds as claimed in the instant invention in a method of treatment of bulimia nervosa.

Schweizer et al. teach venlafaxine as an antidepressant. The reference teaches that significant improvement was observed in depression scores at all doses (see abstract). The reference teaches administration of 25, 75 and 125 mg to patients with depression (see Table 1, p 234). The reference also teaches that overall venlafaxine was well tolerated (see p 236, col. 2, line 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to treat bulimia nervosa by administering a compound such as venlafaxine because of the teachings of Pope et al. and Schweizer et al. Pope et al teaches the benefits of antidepressants in the treatment of bulimia and state that phenelzine, an antidepressant significantly improved the frequency of binge eating. Schweizer et al.

Art Unit: 1617

teach venlafaxine as an effective antidepressant. One having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to administer venlafaxine for another antidepressant in a method of treatment of bulimia from Pope et al's teachings in expectation of success, as an alternative therapy and to achieve similar or superior therapeutic benefits compared to other antidepressants.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pope et al. (J Clin Psychiatry, July 1985, 339-345) in view of Schweizer et al. (J of Clin. Psychopharmacology, 1991, 233-36) as applied to claims 1-5, 7, 9-13 above and further in view of Wang et al. (Chirality, 1992, 4(2), 84-90).

Pope et al. and Schweizer et al. teachings discussed as above.

The references do not teach the substituents R5 and R6 are both in the meta position or one of R5 or R6 is in the para position.

Wang teach a stereospecific high performance liquid chromatographic method for the quantitation of the enantiomers of venlafaxine, an antidepressant. The reference also teaches that the disposition of venlafaxine enantiomers in humans is not stereoselective (see Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to prepare and to separate selective stereoisomers of venlafaxine for its use in a method of treatment of bulimia nervosa because of the teachings from the prior art. Wang teach the preparation of stereospecific enantiomers of venlafaxine. One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to obtain substituents R5 and R6 in

the meta position or one of R5 or R6 is in the para position in expectation of success from the teachings of Wang.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pope et al. (J Clin Psychiatry, July 1985, 339-345) in view of Edgren et al. (US 6,440,457).

Pope et al. teach administration of antidepressants in the treatment of bulimia. The reference teach the oral administration of antidepressants such as imipramine, amitriptyline, tricyclics, or phenelzine (90 mg/day) in bulimic patients and further teach that phenelzine proved significantly superior to placebo for improving the frequency of binge eating (p 340, para 4, lines 3-14, p 341 para 4, lines 4-5). To summarize, Pope et al. teach therapeutic benefits of all kinds of antidepressants in bulimic patients.

The reference does not teach venlafaxine (elected species) or any of the compounds as claimed in the instant invention in a method of treatment of bulimia nervosa.

Edgren et al. teach controlled dosage release forms comprising compounds of the instant application (as claimed in claim 1 and 4 of the instant application) including venlafaxine for antidepressant therapy (col. 1, lines 1-20, col. 6, lines 20-30, example 4). The reference teaches oral administration of such compounds to humans to produce antidepressant therapy (col. 14, claim 1). The reference teaches the antidepressant compounds are in dosage form of 0.5-750 mg of drug (col. 6, lines 41-44). The reference teaches that the conventional dosage forms of the drug of the compounds of the instant application is available as tablets and capsules (col. 2, lines 14-15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to treat bulimia nervosa by administering a compound such as venlafaxine because of the teachings of Pope et al. and Edgren et al. Pope et al teaches the benefits of antidepressants in the treatment of bulimia and state that phenelzine, an antidepressant significantly improved the frequency of binge eating. Edgren et al. teach venlafaxine as an effective antidepressant. One having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to administer venlafaxine for another antidepressant in a method of treatment of bulimia from Pope et al's teachings in expectation of success, as an alternative therapy and to achieve similar or superior therapeutic benefits compared to other antidepressants.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pope et al. (J Clin Psychiatry, July 1985, 339-345) in view of Edgren et al. (US 6,440,457) as applied to claims 1-5, 7, 9-14 above and further in view of Wang et al. (Chirality, 1992, 4(2), 84-90).

Pope et al. and Edgren et al. teachings discussed as above.

The references do not teach the substituents R5 and R6 are both in the meta position or one of R5 or R6 is in the para position.

Wang teach a stereospecific high performance liquid chromatographic method for the quantitation of the enantiomers of venlafaxine, an antidepressant. The reference also teaches that the disposition of venlafaxine enantiomers in humans is not stereoselective (see Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to prepare and to separate selective stereoisomers of venlafaxine for its use in a method of treatment of bulimia nervosa because of the teachings from the prior art. Wang teach the preparation of stereospecific enantiomers of venlafaxine. One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to obtain substituents R5 and R6 in the meta position or one of R5 or R6 is in the para position in expectation of success from the teachings of Wang.

### **Conclusion**

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to UMAMAHESWARI RAMACHANDRAN whose telephone number is (571)272-9926. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1617

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SREENI PADMANABHAN/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1617